

Did you know...



Children who know the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet and how to write them have a much easier time learning to read. This early literacy skill is called “letter knowledge.”

Children learn to recognize letters more easily if they can identify shapes and have had experience sorting objects into *same* and *different*. Once children can name the upper and lowercase letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them. At this age they also begin learning how to write the letters. This takes a lot of practice, but it can be done in fun ways throughout daily routines.

Here's how...

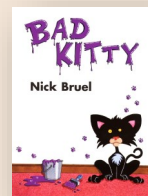


- ✦ Point out letters as you're reading books with your child or as you are out and about in the community. It is fun to play “I Spy” games and try to find specific letters on signs or storefronts.
- ✦ Read alphabet books. Many of them focus on themes, such as bugs or trucks that might be of interest to your child.
- ✦ Encourage your child to write in real-life ways: writing thank you notes, making lists, creating a schedule, etc. Don't worry so much about spelling; at this age your child is focused on learning to form letters.
- ✦ Read with your child every day. Learning to enjoy reading will provide her with the opportunities she needs to practice letter identification and letter sounds.

Read

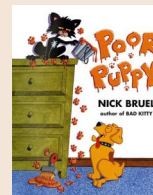


***Bad Kitty*, by Nick Bruel**



When Bad Kitty's owners run out of kitty food and only have 26 kinds of vegetables to eat, she tears around the house misbehaving from A to Z. Bad Kitty has become a favorite pet in households across the country.

If your child likes *Bad Kitty*, be sure to look for *Poor Puppy* at your local library!



Visit author Nick Bruel's Bad Kitty website for games, activities, videos, and more:
www.badkittybooks.com

Choose Books



Some other fun alphabet books to look for at your public library:

A Busy Creature's Day Eating, by Mo Willems

Alpha Oops! The Day Z Went First, by Althea Kontis

I Stink! by Kate and Jim McMullan

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten, by Joseph Slate

Not an Alphabet Book: The Case of the Missing Cake, by Eoin McLaughlin

Q and U Call it Quits, by Stef Wade

Wild Animal ABC, by P.J. Rankin Hults

Z Is for Moose, by Kelly Bingham



In order to become a good reader your child should have books at home to read, both on his own and for grownups to read to him. The best places to get books that appeal to your child are the school library and public library. You can help your child keep track of library books at home with this simple rule of thumb: Library books are either in hands being read or in the child's backpack. Talk with your child about helping take responsibility for library books with this phrase:



Books and backpacks are buddies!

Write



A single letter can look very different, depending on how it is written or typed. This can make it difficult for your child to recognize it when reading. Help your child make an alphabet book with variations of every letter on each page. Write letters and cut out letters from magazines:

A **a** *a* **ä** **A** **a** **A** *ä*

Play



Car Game: I'm So Hungry!

This is an alphabet game. The first player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator!" (or apple, or something else starting with 'a'.) The next player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator and a bathtub! The next player says, "I'm so hungry I could eat an alligator, a bathtub, and a clock!" And so on...

If your children are too young to remember all the previous answers, skip that part and just let them think of something that starts with the current letter only.



Apples and Bananas

(A silly song to help learn vowel sounds)

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas,
I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas.

Now change the vowel sound to A, sing twice:
I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays

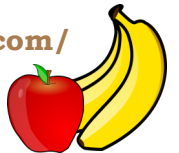
Now change the vowel sound to E, sing twice:
I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees

Now change the vowel sound to I, sing twice:
I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis

Now change the vowel sound to O, sing twice:
I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos

Now change the vowel sound to U, sing twice:
I like to oot, oot, oot oo-ples and boo-noo-noos

Hear this song at <https://bussongs.com/songs/apples-and-bananas>



At your library...



Idaho libraries are here to help you during the pandemic. In-person service depends on local health guidelines; however, most libraries offer pick-up service, online service, or 24-hour service, such as free Wi-Fi. If you don't have your library's website URL, use the Idaho library locator at <https://libraries.idaho.gov/idaho-library-directory/>.